

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 PPT-01 SCA-01

VO-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 EB-07 COME-00 SCS-03 /055 W

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O 291632Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1110

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 0866

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG US PFOR CVIS

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BULA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BULA MANDUNGU ASKED ME TO COME TO FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY (JAN 29) AT ONE. WE HAD A BEER TOGETHER, CHATTED ABOUT UTILITY OF RECENT AFRO-AMERICAN INSTITUTE MEETING IN ZAIRE. HE THEN WENT TO DISCUSS HOW WE COULD MAINTAIN GOOD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US. HE ASSURED ME HE WANTED A CLOSE, INFORMAL RELATION AND THAT THE SLOGAN OF THE NEW DIPLOMACY IN ZAIRE WAS "FRANKNESS." I SAID I WELCOMED THAT AND THOUGHT THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT I SAW NO REASON WHY WE COULDN'T WORK OUR WAY THROUGH THEM. THERE WERE ALSO SOME MINOR POINTS WHICH WE WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH AS WE WENT ALONG.

2. HE ASKED WHAT I HAD IN MIND AND I ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE NEW VISA REQUIREMENTS, MENTIONING THAT WE WERE GRATEFUL FOR CLARIFICATION THAT HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING CONCERNING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BUT WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT ITS IMPACT ON SUCH THINGS AS CIS ACTIVITIES HERE. HE ASKED ME TO EXPLAIN. I DID SO AND HE SAID THAT COULD BE HANDLED BY GETTING LISTS OF ENGINEERS AND OTHER TECHNICIANS NEEDED TO

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THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ADVANCE VIA SNEL (ELECTRIC

AUTHORITY FOR WHICH CIS WORKS). AS FOR TOURISTS AND BUSINESS TRAVEL, HE RECOGNIZED THERE WERE CERTAIN DISADVANTAGES FOR ZAIRE BUT IN A PERIOD OF RADICALIZATION OF THE REVOLUTION AND THE CREATION OF A NEW SOCIETY THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT THERE WOULD BE ELEMENTS THAT WOULD BE DISPLEASED BY THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN. THEY HAD, THEREFORE, IN THE INTERESTS OF SECURITY INSTITUTED THE NEW MEASURES. I THANKED HIM FOR THE EXPLANATION AND SAID I UNDERSTOOD AND NO ONE QUESTIONED THE GOVERNMENT'S RIGHT TO CONTROL IMMIGRATION BUT IT WOULD COMPLICATE SOME THINGS. HE SAID THAT WAS RECOGNIZED AND HE THOUGHT THE STRICT MEASURES WOULD ONLY BE TEMPORARY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINSHA00866
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750032-1126
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750111/aaaaajjb.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <10 Jun 2003 by MorefiRH, INA>; RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BULA
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, CG, US, (NYATI, MANDUNGU BULA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006